



THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

May, 2022



NOTE:

Our May Meeting will be a Pocahontas Chapter picnic at Dory Park in Henrico county on May 22, 2022.

Our next meeting and Newsletter will be in September.

Let's gather at 11:30 at Dory Park on May 22, 2022, for a picnic and plant walk. We have reserved Shelter # 7 and will eat at noon and walk from around 12:30 to 2:00.

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## May 2022 Pocahontas Chapter President's Message

Hello Chapter Members,

Well, this is the last newsletter until September 2022. In the meantime, we get to enjoy another growing season in beautiful Virginia. Yesterday, April 30, 2022, chapter volunteers and I worked our display table at the first annual Henrico Native Plant Festival. It was a huge success. There were lots of great displays, native plant vendors, and a lot of people came out due to their interests in native plants. It gave me some encouragement in my normally existential-focused mind. Lots of people do care about nature. Alas, the pawpaws sold out before I could get some (Pocahontas chapter April 2022 plant of the month).

I was equally stoked by the cornucopia of chapter volunteers who came out to work the booth. They were chatting people up, laying down the benefits of native plants, expounding the Flora, and encouraging membership. I saw other chapter members too who were there for fun, selling plants, and working other tables.

We have other display events coming up; thanks to all who have volunteered so far. We also have a picknick and walk later this month. Some months this summer still need field trips. If you'd like to lead a trip, please let me know. You don't have to be a botanist. The main job is being the point of contact and making sure no one gets lost.

Things are progressing. We are currently renewing our memorandum of understanding with Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens for meetings this fall and winter. I'm

thinking of ways we can meet in person with a live-streaming option. The guest speaker may have to wear one of those headset microphones like Bobby Brown or Garth Brooks. Also, the state board is adding a new position: the diversity and inclusion chair. I was on the committee that helped create this position, but Kathleen O'Shea led the committee and actually got the jar open, as we say in canning season.



See you on the trail,

Matt Brooks

Pocahontas Chapter President, VNPS

## Upcoming events:

**May 7. 9:00–1:00.** The Bookstore Event.

Chamberlayne Heights UMC

6100 Chamberlayne Rd, Richmond, VA 23227

Contact Pat Brodie 804-350-8125

**May 14. 9:00–3:00.** Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Plant Festival

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

1800 Lakeside Ave, Henrico, VA 23228

We'll be sharing a booth with Kat Cox of RVA Homegrown Natives.

Volunteer signup: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/zbq5xL3b>

**June 11. 8:30–4:00.** Pollinator Festival

Deep Run Park & Recreation Center

9900 Ridgefield Pkwy, Richmond, VA 23233

Volunteer signup: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/Rb4wxwga>

There will be more events. We'll send out announcements accordingly for display events and field trips.

## April 7, 2022 Pocahontas Chapter Meeting Minutes at 7:00 PM via Zoom

Guest Speaker Jason Aldrich on Native Agriculture

Board members present: Matt Brooks, Jason Aldrich, Becky Kyle, Lisa Hamilton, Richard Moss

Announcements made by Matt at the beginning of the meeting.

May 7 Bookstore event Pat Brodie update. Pat still looking for volunteers to work the chapter booth.

Action item: Matt will resend the invite with Pat's email and phone number

### The Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

serves the counties of Amelia, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George and the cities of Ashland, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Petersburg, and Richmond. It meets the first Thursday of September through April at 7:00 PM in the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, unless otherwise stated.

#### Chapter Officers

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Business Meeting (Matt secretary)

We were invited to display at the annual pollinator festival at Sailor's Creek State Park in Amelia County "Butterflies on the Battlefield" July 16th 10:00–2:00. Other groups attending: VA Master Naturalist, The Margaret Watson Bird Club.

The board decided we will ask the Butterflies on the Battlefield contact when the commitment deadline is. We will include this event on another call for volunteers. If we have 2 or more willing to transport, setup, and take down the display materials, we will attend the event.

Action item: Matt will send another call-for-volunteers email with the upcoming events, including Pat's bookstore event and the Butterflies on the Battlefield event.

Matt meeting LGBG contact April 16 about new MOU for in-person meetings (This later changed to April 9). Richard recalled a classroom was normally sufficient for meetings, but some meetings drew bigger crowds. Lisa recalled some large events.

The board moved to donate \$500 to the Plant RVA Natives brochure-printing campaign.

Richard said there is a May newsletter.

Chapter T-shirts: The chapter decided to hold a t-shirt design contest. Jason handling the logistics. \$200 for first-place (the design); free 1-year membership for 2nd and 3rd places. The deadline for the contest entry is July 1, 2022.

Matt Brooks, Acting Secretary



# Field Trip to John J. Radcliffe Appomattox River Conservation Area in Chesterfield county on April 2, 2022



Small bluets (*Houstonia pusilla*) were found in the grass next to the parking lot.



Left: Eastern Redbud - (*Cercis canadensis*)



Left lower: Crane-fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*)



Sessile Bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*)



Cut-leaved Toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*)



*Erythronium americanum* (Yellow trout-lily)



This area in summer is solid green with invasive Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*). In winter it dies back leaving mostly bare ground.

The trail goes down the Appomattox river from the parking lot, then after crossing a marsh on a boardwalk branches. One branch continues along the river and the other (which we took) goes away from the river and between a marsh and some hills, looping back to the parking lot. The photographs starting with the



Green and Gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*)

Green and gold were taken on the return loop.





We saw several of these orchid plants, Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*) along the trail.



Along the edge of the marsh was this Beaver dam. We didn't see any beavers, but there was evidence of recent activity.



There were several patches of this native Star Chickweed (*Stellaria pubera*).



Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)



This was our group. We had 10 people plus one dog, all of which enjoyed the walk.